

Deputy Director (Plans)

19 February 1951

Director of Training

A Project For Training Area Specialists

Reference: Letter from Executive Assistant, Social Science Research Council, dated 1 February 1951, to Mr. Allen W. Dulles, CIA

1. The subject proposal, with certain modifications in detail, is an excellent initial step toward the resolution of a pressing pre-employment training and recruitment problem confronting CIA and certain other Government agencies. It therefore merits the support, in principle, of this Agency.
2. While this project has been presented as a "one shot" effort to build up a reservoir of 1000 competent area specialists by 1954, it is believed that, with adequate governmental support, the program could be expanded to meet the continuous requirements of CIA and other government agencies.
3. It has been ascertained that Mr. Elmer Staats, Bureau of the Budget has asked the Department of State for an informal appraisal of the project. If the Department's reaction is favorable, he plans to arrange for appropriate inter-departmental consideration of the project regarding ways and means of putting it into effect. Inquiry has revealed that the Department will recommend "approval in principle" but will recommend certain modifications in detail.
4. CIA would derive benefits from participating in an inter-agency program such as the one proposed, rather than to proceed unilaterally. CIA now competes unfavorably with other government agencies for the services of university graduates in view of the tight security restrictions which presently prevent adequate discussion of the nature of CIA jobs. Under the proposed project CIA interests would not be identified in terms that differed from those of State and Defense, CIA's quota would be established and negotiated in advance, and security clearance action could be completed prior to the graduation of the student.
5. This Office will keep you advised of developments regarding the proposed project if you so desire. A copy of specific recommendations the Agency should make at the inter-agency meeting to consider this project will be forwarded to you at an early date.

MATTHEW BAIRD

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